**Settlement of Bhopal gas case**

2027. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are trying to enter into out of court settlement with Dow in Bhopal gas case; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what would happen to the issue of clearing of contamination in the vast area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Prices of medicines**

†2028. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDEWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite of all efforts by Government the increasing prices of medicines are not checked;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no control of Government on the prices of new medicines being brought in the market by the companies in the name of safety;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to control the prices of all life saving medicines being sold in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/ revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. Under Para 19 of the DPCO,95, 16% margin to retailer is allowed in respect of Scheduled formulations.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not distinguish between life saving and other drugs. There are no specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drug can be classified as life saving drugs. Every drug in general is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.